

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims as filed with the claims set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An agricultural composition consisting essentially of a concentrate mixture of (a) ~~hydrochloric acid~~ or phosphoric acid and (b) 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said phosphonic compounds are selected from the group consisting of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid and salts of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid, [[and]] wherein said mixture is diluted in water for direct application to a cotton plant, and wherein the mixture after dilution in water has a pH between 1 and 4 .

2. (currently amended) A method for increasing the efficiency and efficacy of phosphonic compounds in controlling cotton plant defoliation, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a concentrate composition consisting essentially of a mixture of (i) ~~hydrochloric acid~~ or phosphoric acid and (ii) 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said phosphonic compound is selected from the group consisting of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid and salts of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid;

(b) mixing said composition of step (a) with water to form an application solution, wherein the application solution has a pH between 1 and 4; and

(c) applying said application solution formed in step (b) to the cotton plant thereby controlling defoliation.

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) The method of claim 2 where the plant growth regulator efficiency of the compound is increased.

5. (original) The method of claim 2 where the growth inhibition efficiency of the compound is increased.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the boll opening efficiency of the compound is increased.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the defoliation efficiency of the compound is increased.

8. (original) The method of claim 2 where the plant height stunting efficiency of the compound is increased.

9. – 11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An agricultural composition consisting essentially of a concentrate mixture of 1% to 40% phosphoric acid and 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said phosphonic compounds are selected from the group consisting of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid and salts of (2-chloroethyl) phosphonic acid, and wherein said mixture is diluted in water for direct application to a cotton plant, wherein the mixture after dilution in water has a pH between 2 and 4.

13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 12 wherein the phosphonic compound is (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid (ethephon).

14. (currently amended) A method for increasing the efficiency and efficacy of phosphonic compounds in controlling cotton plant defoliation, the method comprising the step of applying to the cotton plant a composition consisting essentially of a concentrate mixture of 1% to 40% phosphoric acid and 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said mixture is diluted in water for direct application to said cotton plant by spraying, wherein the mixture after dilution in water has a pH between 2 and 4, and wherein the boll opening efficiency of the phosphonic compound is increased.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the phosphonic compound is (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid (ethephon).

16. – 17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the rate of application is 3 to 30 gallons per acre.

19. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further consists of one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, an emulsifier, a solvent, and surface active agents.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the composition formed in step (b) further consists of one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, an emulsifier, a solvent, and surface active agents.